

Dear All

I have sent this Health and Neighbourhood Watch bulletin to those on my distribution list as living near Tadworth but not on the TWRA distribution list.

### **Reigate & Banstead Budget Consultation**

There is an opportunity up until January 17<sup>th</sup> for residents to contribute to the Reigate & Banstead Council's (RBBC) budgetary review.

There are two ways to do so:

1. Complete the Council's survey: [Complete our online feedback form](#) or copy this link to your browser <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/rbbcbudget2022/>. You may request a paper copy if you prefer.
2. Write to RBBC at [engagement@reigate-banstead.gov.uk](mailto:engagement@reigate-banstead.gov.uk) or send a letter to 'Freepost RBBC CONSULTATIONS'

### **Fairer Road Funding Campaign**

Our County Councillor Rebecca Paul is organising a campaign and associated petition to persuade the government to introduce a fairer policy with respect to funding road maintenance. She has asked for the following statement to be circulated as widely as possible.

*One of the most common issues raised with me by residents is the state of our roads. The truth of the situation is that SCC receives insufficient funds from central government to adequately maintain Surrey's highway network. In fact, what the Highways department achieves with the little funding they get is an accomplishment in itself.*

*One of the main reasons for inadequate road funding is the way the road funding formula is calculated. The current formula relies solely upon length of road and does not take into account traffic volume. This means that Surrey, which is more than three times busier than some other counties, receives insufficient funding to cope with the additional wear and tear experienced.*

*As this is an issue that matters a great deal to our residents, I am launching a campaign to address this issue. I have started a petition calling for Government to reform the road maintenance funding formula to take into account traffic volume. In order for this petition to trigger a parliamentary debate, it will need **100,000 signatures**. This is a gigantic task and this is where I make my plea to you. To have any chance of achieving this, the petition will need to be publicised and shared across the whole of Surrey and beyond. If you are able to help by sharing with your local residents and community groups, I would be most grateful. The link to the petition can be found below:*

[www.fairroadfunding.uk](http://www.fairroadfunding.uk)

### **Health Bulletin**

The COVID statistics relating to Surrey are published each Friday and have now started to level off and even slightly decrease with respect to infection rates in Reigate and Banstead over the last week. Our borough now reports the fifth highest rate in Surrey with new cases down just over 50 at 1650 per 100,000 residents (Spelthorne is highest at 1975) Extrapolating this data to Tadworth & Walton would indicate about 165 new infections in the week in question.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/emergency-planning-and-community-safety/coronavirus/local-outbreak-plan/figures-and-statistics/full-report>

It is vital that those now eligible for vaccinations take advantage of the opportunity as news reports indicate that the majority of those seriously ill in hospital are those not fully vaccinated. Eligibility includes boosters for those over 18 and in some cases younger and first and second jabs for those over 12.

This link provides details of vaccination centres in Surrey

### [Vaccination Centres](#)

Details regarding eligibility to use Walk-In Vaccination Centres can be found here

[a walk-in clinic.](#)

For general details relating to COVID visit here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

And for details of Flu Vaccinations visit here:

[nhs.uk/wintervaccinations](https://www.nhs.uk/wintervaccinations)

### Test Kits

Test kits were available today when requesting home delivery on the government web site. You should check availability and obtain a code before trying to get one from a local pharmacy.

### [Order a lateral flow test online](#)

If you have symptoms or get a positive reading on your test kit it is no longer mandatory to take a PCR Test to confirm your infection status. If you test positive on a lateral flow device (LFD) test you should self-isolate immediately and [register your result on GOV.UK](#) so that NHS Test and Trace can trace your contacts.

If required you can book a PCR test here:

[free PCR test](#)

### COVID Guidelines with respect to venues

You can see Government Guidelines for those operating venues and attractions where large numbers of people may gather

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/carrying-out-mandatory-covid-19-status-checks-at-your-venue-or-event>

Essentially you may need to prove your vaccination or COVID test status at outdoor venues with over 4,000 in attendance or indoor venues with over 500.

### Foreign travel

This is a rapidly changing area and you will need to consult both government web sites for UK restrictions and news bulletins for those imposed on UK travellers by other countries

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-abroad-from-england-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

### Neighbourhood Watch Report

Neighbourhood Watch is celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the first Watch in the UK this year and will be using a special version of its logo to mark this. You can read their newsletter highlighting planned activities here:

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2022-01/Jan%202022%20OUR%20NEWS.pdf>

I have not yet received a Police burglary update for 2022

### **Text from the Surrey & Sussex Police January Fraud Newsletter**

"Each month we see many incidents of fraudsters targeting our residents in an attempt to defraud them. We're working hard to prevent this and support vulnerable victims of fraud or scams. By following our tips and encouraging family, friends and colleagues to do so too, you can reduce the risk of becoming a victim." T/Detective Chief Inspector Rob Walker, Surrey Police & Sussex Police Economic Crime Unit

### **Romance Fraud Special**

Almost £92 million was lost to romance scams in the past year. Romance fraudsters invest weeks or months of time getting to know their victims and gain their trust, before asking them for money for a variety of reasons. The stories are often believable to an extent, something that the victim would find hard to say no to because of their emotional attachment.

Examples include funding travel to visit the victim, emergency medical expenses, lucrative investment opportunities and pretending to be military personnel or working overseas.

Daters who strike up online relationships between Christmas and Valentine's Day tend to be most susceptible, with a spike of 901 reports recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) in March 2021.

### **Case Study**

A 69-year-old man from Surrey was approached by a woman on Instagram. After many conversations online they began a relationship. The victim had no local family or friends, so was pleased to have someone to talk to each day and trusted the fraudster. After some time, she convinced him that she wanted to marry him and claimed she was going to come and visit him. The fraudster told the victim she needed money in the form of Amazon gift cards to pay for petrol to travel to him, and sent him photos of her packing her bags to make the victim believe her story. The victim purchased £100 in Amazon vouchers and provided the codes to the fraudster. The victim soon became suspicious when the fraudster claimed she needed more vouchers as the first ones didn't work, and checked with the supermarket he brought them from.

### **Spot the Signs of Romance Fraud**

Fraudsters will use glamorous photos of themselves and try to gain your trust to get information from you by making conversations more personal.

Romance fraudsters often claim to have high-ranking roles that keep them away from home for a long time, and which account for why they can't meet you in person.

Fraudsters often try to steer you away from speaking on legitimate dating websites and chat rooms as soon as possible so the conversations take place on non-monitored platforms.

Fraudsters may send high value items to their victims and ask them to send them on elsewhere, or ask them to receive money into their bank account and transfer it on to someone else.

### **Case Study**

A 50-year-old woman from Sussex fell victim to romance fraud after being befriended by a male on Facebook. The man claimed to be living in the United States and soon asked the victim to speak on WhatsApp. The victim and the fraudster spoke for several months before deciding to start a

relationship.

The fraudster told the victim he was having issues with his US bank account and that she could help him by having his money transferred to a Bitcoin account in her name. As instructed, the victim sent an email to an address given and was instructed to download an app, link her bank account to it and provide her login details. The victim did this in the honest-held belief she was helping her partner.

The victim's bank discovered fraudulent transfers coming in and out of her account, with her own money being taken, and alerted the victim that she had been a victim of romance fraud.

### **Spot the Signs of a Romance Fraud Victim**

The person may be secretive of their relationship and give excuses as to why they have not met the person.

The person may express strong emotions for someone they have only just met.

They have sent or are planning to send money to the fraudster.

Spotted a fake profile or been contacted by a fraudster online? Report the profile anonymously to Scamalytics here:

<https://scamalytics.com/report-scammers/>

Using an online form, you can enter images, names and details of potential fraudsters, and potentially save other people from falling victim to the same scammer in the future.

### **Protect Yourself from Romance Fraud**

Don't rush into an online relationship. Get to know the person, not the profile, and ask plenty of questions.

Analyse their profile. Check the person is genuine by putting their name, profile pictures or any repeatedly used phrases and the term 'dating scam' into your search engine.

Talk to friends and family and be wary of someone telling you not to talk to friends and family about them.

Evade scams. Never send money or share your bank details with someone you've only met online, no matter the reason or how long you've been speaking to them.

Stay on the dating site messenger service. Don't use email, phone, social media or other messaging apps until you're confident the person you're speaking to is who they say they are.

### **Have you been a victim of fraud?**

If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud please report online. Report fraud or attempted fraud on the Action Fraud website or call 0300 123 2040.

### **General Advice regarding potential scams**

When considering online purchases or responding to requests for your personal data:

**Stop:** Take a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information, it could keep you safe.

**Challenge:** Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse, or ignore any requests for personal information. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

**Protect:** Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to [Action Fraud](#).

### **Upcoming Events**

**In view of the infections from Omicron you would be wise to check with organisers as to whether some regular events will still be happening e.g. The Village kitchen did not operate in Christchurch in January.**

**The Saturday Coffee Shop every Saturday from 10.30am – 12noon in the Good Shepherd Church**

**COGS Pantomime –Sleeping Beauty in the Good Shepherd Hall on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm and Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm and 7pm. Tickets via**

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/goodshepherdadworth.org.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/goodshepherdadworth.org.uk)

**Good Shepherd Parish Lunch Sunday February 6<sup>th</sup> – note you must pre-book on the list in the Church.**

**Village Kitchen Christchurch Hall Walton, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February** for coffees and light lunches.

Please let me know if you have an event taking place in the next 2 months.

Keep well

Mike Fox

For Neighbourhood Watch & Community Support

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